

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

OCTOBER 21, 2016

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, October 21, 2016, at 11:00 am EDT. Chair Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other)	Present
Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Other)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Present
Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)	Present
Scott Hoatson, Oregon DEQ (AB)	Present
Craig Huff, ERA (Other)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Neptune (Chair; Other)	Present
Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Present
Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller Assocs. (Other)	Absent
Tim Miller, Phenova (Other)	Present
Judy Morgan, Pace (Lab)	Present
Joe Pardue P2S (Vice-Chair; Other)	Absent
Donna Ruokenen, Microbac (Lab)	Present
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members present: Audrey Cornell, ERA; Amanda Grande, Phenova; Shari Pfalmer, ESC Lab Services.

2 – Previous Minutes

It was moved by Nicole and seconded by Scott to approve the minutes of July 15, 2016. All were in favor.

3 – Volume 1, Module 1

The Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC) had proposed editorial changes to Volume 1, Module 1 after objections were raised by the NELAP Accreditation Council (AC). Judy Morgan, Chair of LASEC, described the AC objections, which had resulted in PT's production of a proposed redline edit of the module. Ken reminded the committee that the LASEC and AC objections had been raised after the standard had passed the TNI consensus standards development process, resulting in a final standard. Therefore, substantive changes could not be made. However, editorial changes, that would not alter the intent of the standard could still be made.

Shawn led a discussion of the committee's proposed redline changes, that had been made to the following sections.

Section 3.1. The definition of Accreditation Body was deleted, because it was inconsistent with the definition in other sections of Volume 1, and it was not necessary to have a definition in this module.

Section 4.2.2. The AC had problems with the term “established standard operating procedures”, arguing it seemed a laboratory could prepare and use an SOP directing different treatment of PT samples, that would qualify as acceptable under this language. Therefore, the committee had changed “established” to “routine”, which was the intent of the original language.

Section 4.3.4. The AC felt it required clarification about what happens if a laboratory chooses to report PTs by method. Although this is explained in the standard, it was agreed a note could be inserted to provide further clarification. After some discussion, the note was worded:

“NOTE: If a laboratory reports PT results for multiple methods using the same analytical technology, an evaluation of not acceptable for one method will be applied to all methods reported with that technology.”

Section 5.1. Clarification had been requested on what constitutes an “acceptable” PT score. The committee agreed to insert at the end of this section the following note that was already in Volume 2, Module 2:

NOTE: “Acceptable” PT study scores from a PT Provider do not automatically result in a successful evaluation of a PT study by an AB. For example, failure to report an analytical method or reporting of an incorrect method, failure to provide the PT Provider with a release of results to the AB before the close of the study, failure to report results to the PT Provider before the closing date, failure to handle PT study samples in the same manner as real environmental samples, etc. may be cause for an unsuccessful evaluation by an AB.

It was further agreed to also insert this note at the end of Section 5.2.3.

It was moved by Scott and seconded by Judy to approve these editorial changes. All were in favor, and these proposed changes would be submitted to LASEC for consideration.

4 – Committee Membership

Shawn, Scott, Mitzi and Judy would be rotating of the committee at the end of the year. Shawn said this would result in vacancies for at least 1 Accreditation Body, 1 Laboratory, and 1 Other member. Nicole was suggested by popular acclaim to be the new chair. She volunteered, with the caveat that travel approval may be a problem for her, and an alternate may be needed to chair the committee at conferences. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Craig to nominate Nicole as committee chair. All were in favor, and Nicole accepted. The 3-year term of the vice-chair, Joe Pardue, would expire on December 31, 2016. At the request of the committee, Ken said he would ask Joe if he was prepared to commit to another 3-year term.

5 – Next Steps

The following suggestions were presented for future work of the committee: preparative methods; uncertainty; radiochemistry; and microbiology. Shawn suggested brainstorming these on the next call.

The committee would probably return to monthly meetings, having met every two weeks through most of the development of the 2016 standard. Shawn thanked the committee members for

completing the enormous undertaking of revising all the PT modules and volumes in the Environmental Sector Standard.

7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EDT. The next call would be in December.